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MAR. NO. 200

BAT-MAN

124

BAT

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COMICS
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AUTHORITY

DEC.
JAN.

Oct. 1967
Ten Cents
No. 21

200th MASH ISSUE

*"The
ORIGIN of
BATMAN"*

DATA ANALYSIS

1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 2680, 26

DEC 1994

BATMAN

The Joker



BATMAN

A sensational 3-part adventure...
"ROBIN DIES AT DAWN!"

I'LL BE THE
DEATH
OF YOU YET
BATMAN
AND
ROBIN!

21.8
25.74
25.15
20.12

BATMAN

With **ROBIN** THE BOY WONDER

ONCE AGAIN THE **PRINCE OF PANIC** FRIGHT INTO **GOTHAM CITY** WITH THE SPECIFIC GOAL OF HAUNTING **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** RIGHT OUT OF THEIR CRIME-FIGHTING WITS:

THE **CAPED CRUSADERS** CANNOT EVEN LOOK UPON THE **TYRANT OF TERROR** NOW WITHOUT TREMBLING WITH FEAR! AND WHEN A HALF-DOZEN **SCARECROWS** LOOM BEFORE THEM, THEY SET THE STAGE FOR THE **DYNAMIC DUO'S DOOM!**

THE MAN WHO RADIATED FEAR!



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APPEARING LIKE A HUGE HAYSTACK AGAINST THE GRAYISH WINTER SKY, A BARN-LIKE HAYSTACK RISES IN THE FARMLAND TO THE WEST OF GOTHAM CITY...



INSIDE, WITHIN A DARK, EERIE LOFT STANDS THAT FELON OF FRIGHT-- THE SCARECROW!

I'VE FINALLY CAUGHT UP WITH YOU, SCARECROW!



I'M TAKING YOU IN!

AAAGH!

G-GET AWAY FROM M-ME, BATMAN!



NO! NO! I--CAN'T STAND IT... ANY LONGER...



T-THERE'S ON-ONLY ONE WAY TO ST-STOP TH-THIS...



T-TAKE THE AN-ANTIDOTE...



ANTIDOTE? FOR WHAT?

HA HA HA!
I OUT-SCARED
THE SCARECROW!

YOU PUT ON A
GREAT BAT-ACT,
LARRY! THE
EXPERIMENT
WAS A
SUCCESS!

LATER, AFTER THE FELON OF FEAR HAS SUMMONED THE REST OF HIS GANG...

LARRY JUST OZZED FEAR! HE TOOK THE
FEAR-RADIATING PILL THAT I CONCOCTED
AND IT WORKED TO PERFECTION!

IT CAUSED A PSYCHO-CHEMICAL REACTION
IN MY MIND--MAKING ME SO FRIGHTENED
I COULD HARDLY THINK STRAIGHT!

NOW I HAVE THE PERFECT
WAY TO SCARE BATMAN
RIGHT OUT OF HIS CRIME-
FIGHTING WITS!
HA HA HA!

SOME NIGHTS LATER, ON
THE WORLD-FAMOUS
GOTHAM JEWELRY ROW...

THIS WAITING IS GETTING
TO ME, SCARECROW! WE'VE
BEEN ROOTED TO THIS
SPOT FOR FOUR NIGHTS
NOW AND BATMAN
STILL HASN'T SHOWN
UP!

PATIENCE,
MR. RAYBOURNE,
PATIENCE!
HE WILL COME
EVENTUALLY!

AH--
LISTEN
NOW!

PLACES, EVERYONE! OUR
LOOKOUT HAS SPOTTED
HIM COMING THIS WAY!

HELP! THE JEWELRY
STORE'S BEIN'
ROBBED!

LOOKS LIKE
WE ARRIVED
JUST AT THE
RIGHT TIME,
BATMAN!

WITH FLYING FEATS AND GLIB VOICES THE DYNAMIC DUO LAUNCHES INTO COMBAT...



DIRECT CURRENTS

JOE'S a pro. He's had vast experience, attends to every detail, and leaves no margin for error. What does he do? He makes a living out of dying. His business is assassination, but when he's hired to eliminate **PLASTIC MAN**, our **HUMAN RUBBER BAND** turns it into monkey business in "JOE, THE KILLER PRO," in the April ish, No. 9, on sale Jan. 16!

Throughout the jungle echoes the cry: "FIND BOMBA! KILL BOMBA!" And as the deadly trap closes in around him, DC's famed **JUNGLE BOY** must inevitably fall victim to "THE DEADLY STING OF ANA CONDA!" It's another saga of the **SOUTH AMERICAN** wilds, in the April issue of **BOMBA THE JUNGLE BOY**, No. 4, on the stands Jan. 16!

All that glitters is not OLD—as **WILDCAT** proves when he springs out of the **GOLDEN AGE OF COMICS** to join forces with **THE SPECTRE** in haunting combat against "THE MENACE OF THE MYSTIC MASTERMIND!" You'll find this double-hero epic in the April issue of the **GHOSTLY GUARDIAN'S** mag—No. 3, on sale Jan. 16!



METAMORPHO condemned to DIE! **METAMORPHO** sentenced by a court to spend eternity in a deep-freeze! Did he really commit the murder of which he is accused? The **ELEMENT MAN** himself thinks he did! See if he's right in the April issue of his mag, No. 17! You'll find it on sale everywhere Jan. 23!

Who are the three monkeys on **ROBIN'S** back—gouging, teasing, tormenting him? Why is the **BOY WONDER** powerless against them? The startling answer is revealed in the electrifying tale titled "REQUIEM FOR A TITAN," in the April issue of **TEEN TITANS**, No. 14! It's a real shock-filled saga, and it's on sale Jan. 23!

The title is . . . **BEWARE THE CREEPER!** The plot and art are by **STEVE DITKO!** The magazine is . . . the April **SHOWCASE**, No. 73, which hits the newsstands Jan. 23! Who . . . or what . . . is **THE CREEPER?** You'll find out when you read it! If you're familiar with **STEVE'S** work, you know a treat awaits you, and if not . . . wait'll you see it!

What heroes can rush to the rescue of a little old lady . . . and get beaten up . . . by the little old lady? You're right . . . **THE INFERIOR FIVE!** But that's only the beginning of the maddest chase in comics (this month, anyway)! **JOE ORLANDO** takes over as editor and the **I 5** are wilder than ever, in the April ish, No. 7, on sale Jan. 23!

WHO'S AFRAID
OF Y-Y-YOU,
S-SCARECROW?

UHH--
NO!

M-MUST G-GET
AWAY FROM
H-HIM...

AAAGHH!
GO AW--UHH!

THEY'RE OUT
COLD!
COLLAPSED
FROM
FRIGHT!
HA HA HA!

NOW'S THE TIME TO
GET RID O' **BATMAN**
FOREVER!

NO--
STOP!

WHY KILL HIM? **BATMAN'S**
SO SCARED OF ME NOW
HE WON'T EVER BOTHER
US AGAIN!

BESIDES, I
LIKE IT MUCH
BETTER THIS
WAY--KNOW-
ING HE'S
COMPLETELY
AFRAID OF
ME!

AFTER THE NIGHTMARE
NEMESIS HAS VANISHED
INTO THE NIGHT...

G-G-GET AWAY
FR-FROM M-ME,
S-SC-SCARECROW!

I-IT'S
OKAY
R-ROBIN--
H-H-H-E'S
G-GONE!

WITH A WATERFALL OF SWEAT
ON THEIR FACES AND QUIVER-
ING LIMBS TO RIVAL AN
EARTHQUAKE, THE DUO
STUMBLES TOWARD THE
BATMOBILE...

W-WE B-BETTER GET
B-BACK T-TO THE
B-BATCAVE!

M-MY HAND--STILL SH-SHAKING!

G-CAN'T FIT THE K-KEY INTO...
THE IG-IGNITION...!

AN AGONIZING HALF-HOUR LATER...

WE WERE L-LUCKY TRAFFIC WAS LIGHT!
IN HIS C-CONDITION BATMAN C-COULD
HAVE GOTTEN INTO AN ACCIDENT!

INSIDE THE SECRET SANCTUARY...

MISTER WAYNE!
MASTER DICK!
WHAT CALAMITY
HAS STRUCK YOU?

THE
S-SCARECROW...
ALFRED!

AFTER RECOVERING ENOUGH FROM THEIR SHOCK, THE HAUNTED HEROES SPILL OUT THEIR TERRIFYING TALE...

--AND ALL OF A SUDDEN THE SCARECROW POPPED UP AND WE JUST BLEW OUR COOL!

HE WAS LIKE A RADIATOR OF FEAR! THE CLOSER WE GOT TO HIM, THE MORE FRIGHTENED WE BECAME!

I CAN'T BEAR THE THOUGHT OF EVER SEEING HIM AGAIN-- OR ANY OTHER CROOK! WE MIGHT AS WELL HANG UP OUR CAPES-- WE'RE FINISHED AS CRIME-FIGHTERS!

THEY HAVE LOST THEIR MOTIVATIONAL DRIVE THROUGH THIS OVERWHELMING FEAR! I MUST TRY TO BRING THEM OUT OF IT!

FORGIVE MY BOLDNESS, SIRE, BUT YOU MUST LISTEN TO ME!

"MANY YEARS AGO, DR. THOMAS WAYNE, HIS WIFE MARTHA, AND THEIR YOUNG SON WERE WALKING HOME FROM A MOVIE WHEN..."

THIS IS A STICK-UP! I'LL TAKE THAT NECKLACE YOU'RE WEARIN', LADY!

YOU HOODLUM! DON'T YOU DARE PUT A HAND ON MY WIFE!

THIS'LL KEEP YOU QUIET!

UHHHH

"THAT SINGLE BULLET REALLY KILLED TWO PEOPLE, FOR MARTHA WAYNE'S WEAK HEART STOPPED FROM THE SUDDEN SHOCK!"

THEY'RE DEAD! YOU KILLED THEM... YOU KILLED MY MOTHER AND FATHER!

STOP LOOKIN' AT ME LIKE THAT!

"SOMETHING ABOUT THE YOUNG KID'S ACCUSING EYES MADE THE KILLER RETREAT! HE SIMPLY DISAPPEARED! SOON AFTER, THE YOUNG BOY MADE A MANFUL PROMISE..."

I SWEAR I'LL DEDICATE MY LIFE AND INHERITANCE TO BRINGING YOUR KILLER TO JUSTICE... AND FIGHTING ALL CRIMINALS! I SWEAR IT!

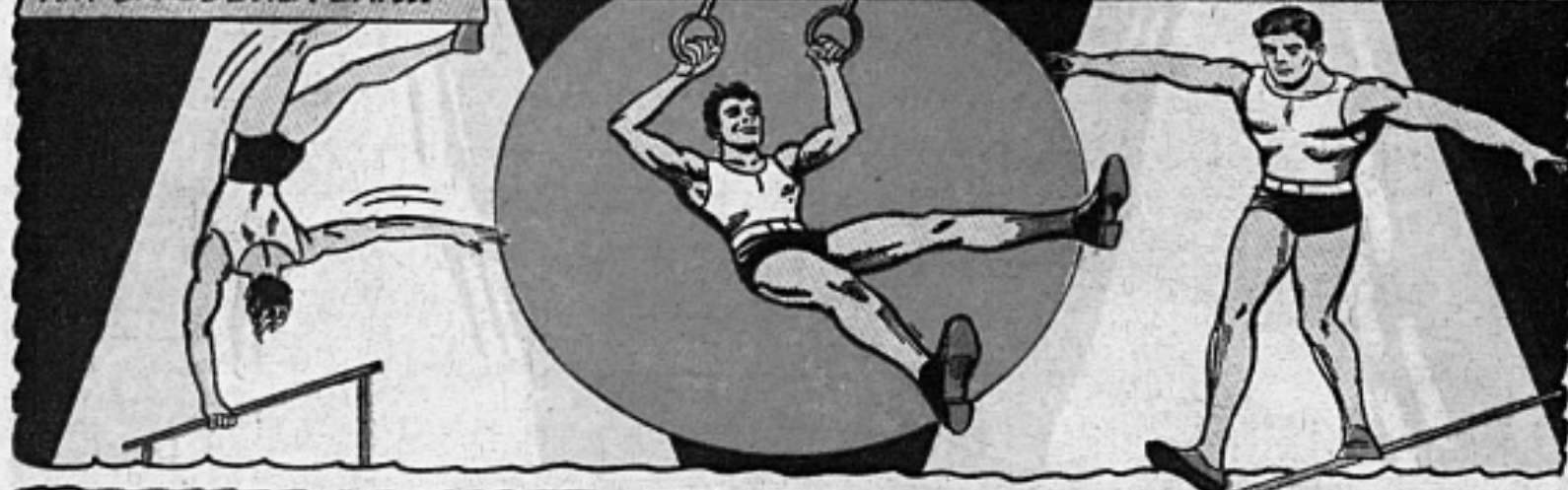


"THE YEARS PASSED AS THE BOY PREPARED FOR HIS CHOSEN CAREER!"



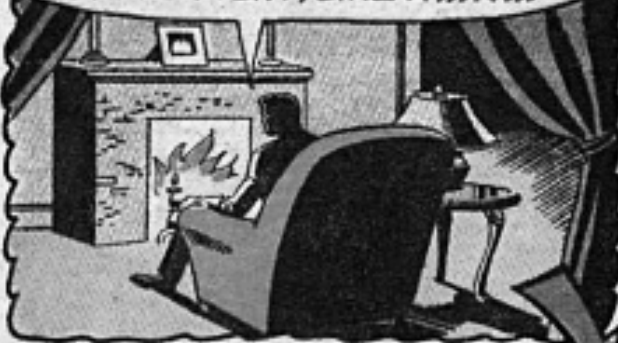
"HE MASTERED SCIENTIFIC CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION."

"HE TRAINED HIS BODY TO SUCH PHYSICAL AND ATHLETIC PERFECTION THAT HE COULD PERFORM ANY DAREDEVIL FEAT..."



"THEN ONE DAY HE WAS READY FOR HIS NEW ROLE!"

CRIMINALS ARE A SUPERSTITIOUS, COWARDLY LOT, SO I MUST WEAR A DISGUISE THAT WILL STRIKE TERROR IN THEIR HEARTS! I MUST BE A CREATURE OF THE NIGHT, LIKE A... A...



"THIS WAS BORN THIS WEIRD FIGURE OF THE SHADOWS... THIS DARK AVENGER OF EVIL-- BATMAN!"

SOMEDAY I'LL FIND THE KILLER OF MY PARENTS... SOME DAY...



"AND, AS IF IN ANSWER, A WINGED CREATURE FLEW IN THROUGH THE OPEN WINDOW!"

A BAT! THAT'S IT! IT'S LIKE AN OMEN! I SHALL BECOME A BAT!



AND YOU DID FIND HIM, MR. WAYNE, BECAUSE YOU WERE THAT MAN! YOU MADE THAT SOLEMN VOW! DON'T EVER FORGET THAT!

AND YOU, MASTER DICK...

"REMEMBER IN THE OLD CIRCUS DAYS, WHEN YOU WERE A MEMBER OF THE ACROBATIC FLYING GRAYSONS?"

"THEN, ONE DAY, AS YOUR PARENTS WERE PERFORMING THEIR DEATH-DEFYING ACT, THE TRIPLE SPIN..."

EEEEEE

THE ROPES HAVE BROKEN!

OH... NO! MOTHER! DAD!

"THEY WERE KILLED INSTANTLY! LATER, ON YOUR WAY BACK TO YOUR DRESSING ROOM, YOU PASSED THE CIRCUS-OWNER'S DOOR AND HEARD..."

TOO BAD ABOUT THAT "ACCIDENT," HALEY!

YEAH, IT WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED IF YA'D PAID US TO "PROTECT" 'EM!

YOU MURDERING--! ALL RIGHT... I'LL PAY NOW!

BATMAN!

YOU CAN'T GO TO THE POLICE YET, DICK! WE NEED PROOF! GETTING IT WILL BE MY JOB!

THEY MURDERED MOM AND DAD! I'M GOING TO THE POLICE!

NO, BOY... NOT YET!

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

YOU TOO CAN PLAY THE "GAME"



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APR
NO. 360

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I BEGIN AS "THE UNKNOWN
SUPERGIRL!"



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NEWSDEALER

HOWEVER, YOU PERSUADED BATMAN TO LET YOU ASSIST HIM IN YOUR PARENTS' MURDERER'S CAPTURE! BUT FIRST YOU HAD TO GO THROUGH A TRAINING PERIOD...



THERE HE IS!
THE MOB-BOSS
THAT KILLED MY
PARENTS!

HUH? IT'S
A KID...
ONLY A
KID!

THEN DONNING
A PROPER
DISGUISE AND
AN APPROPRIATE
NAME TO
MATCH, YOU--
ROBIN--
WENT
AFTER
YOUR
PARENTS'
KILLERS!



BUT YOU PROVED
YOU WERE MORE
THAN A "KID"
MASTER DICK!
EVIDENCE YOU
GATHERED
CONVICTED THE
MOB!

AND
SURELY YOU
HAVEN'T FOR-
GOTTEN YOUR
PLEDGE TO
FIGHT CRIME
AS A
MEMORIAL
TO YOUR
PARENTS?



THEIR FACES ETCHED IN INTENSE
CONCENTRATION, THE PAIR
REFLECTS THE FAITHFUL
BUTLER'S HEAVY WORDS...

WAS THAT ENOUGH TO
BRING THEM OUT
OF THEIR
FEAR?



THEN...
WE CAN'T THANK
YOU ENOUGH, ALFRED!
I GUESS WE HAD
LOST SIGHT OF
OUR ORIGINAL
PURPOSES!
WE'RE GRATEFUL
TO YOU FOR
REMINING
US!

WE MAY
BECOME
AFRAID--
AGAIN--
BUT THAT
WON'T
STOP
US NOW!



WELL, YOUNGSTER, WHAT SAY WE GO TO OUR TRAINING ROOM AND WORK OUT?

LET'S GO! I FEEL LIKE CONQUERING THE WORLD!

MASTER DICK IS RIGHT--NOTHING CAN STOP THEM NOW!

STORY CONTINUES ON 352 PAGE FOLLOWING

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LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE

DEAR EDITOR:

As you start to read my letter, from the depths of your mind you're thinking that here's another fan complaining of not seeing *Batman's* peepers through his mask, or his abdomen is too muscular, or why hasn't *Robin* aged and have a ten-foot long beard!

Well, I can understand your feelings but on the contrary (sit down for this one), I'm here to praise you! Yes, *Batman* 196 was an elating masterpiece of originality. The cover was superb, the best ever in *Batman* comics. The shadow on *Robin's* features was tremendously vivid, showing extreme realism. The cover-story, "The Psychic Super-Sleuth," was as great as its art. The action was good and very constant. The "super-sleuth" reminded me of Agatha Christie's *Hercule Poirot*. Incidentally, the title was the only thing that struck me the wrong way. The word "super" could have been left out. (Now I tell you!)

The second story, "The Purloined Parchment Puzzle," was grand in the *Batman* tradition with a really stumper of a mystery. Thanks for having a solo story without that *Holy Boy Wonder* cracking puns that make me head for the aspirin bottle for relief.

I can just repeat—great work and success in the future. (By the way, how come you don't show the eyes through the mask...)

—Ricky Hussian, Lexington, Ky.

(The eyes are not shown because of the grand old *Batman* tradition not to do so.—Editor)

• • • • •

DEAR EDITOR:

I am sure there will be no shortage of comments on the cover story of the November *Batman*, so I would like to confine my critique to the "Parchment Puzzle." Why? Because I feel the author did such a fine job of taking one of the traditional (and most enjoyable) mystery formats, the "locked room problem," and fashioning a story so well suited to the medium in which it appeared, the comic magazine. How so?

(1) The "locked room" is usually a "quiet" sort of story—however, the writer included fine action scenes necessary to a comic mag story. He managed not to simply fit them in, but made these scenes an integral and necessary part of the whole. (The secondary crime—shots leading *Batman* to the main crime, for instance.)

(2) The use of the courtroom setting—much livelier than "everybody sits around in a group of talky panels and explains the problem." In other words, by combining the trial and flashback, the "who was where when" became a group of interesting, active scenes.

(3) Finally, the mystery itself. I'm certainly no expert, but I think this kind of story is most effective when the clues are all in plain sight, but clever enough to keep you guessing till the end. And this was precisely what was done. Again, having the clue a visual one was perfect for a pictorial medium. And such a nice, plausible clue. I guessed that the culprit had to be the guard, I even figured out that the clock had to be involved. But the reason for its involvement stumped me right down to the finish, even though all the evi-

dence was right there in plain sight. Perfect! As was the likewise plausible bluff about the fingerprints.

—Molra L. Maynard, St. Paul, Minn.

(And that "locks up" another favorable comment. In all fairness, let's unlock another door for a horsy comment of another color.—Editor)

• • • • •

DEAR EDITOR:

Batman 196. November, 1967. Hmmm...

The cover...hmm...If I were attempting to explain this cover in terms one *Guy* did, I'd fail miserably. Of course, I shall anyway, but this way I have sort of a chance. The "different" thing about this particular cover is that up is not up and down is not down, but rather upper left is up and lower right is down and the center of interest is not where it should be either, in the upper center or thereabouts. All in all, a highly disatisfying cover.

"The Psychic Super-Sleuth"...hmmm...even though the first actual story panel consisted of a lousy picture of the *Batmobile*, the overall art was very nice. One particular fact of art that amazes me is how Bob Kane was able to draw *Dubrov* and his impostor looking so much alike yet with noticeable difference. The story itself—plot, characterization, and so forth—was not as good. The plot might have made a very nice yarn had it been handled with a little more skill. Since the fad is to guess who wrote the story, I'm going to say it was done by John Broome, only because I did not find it to have the originality I usually connect with a *Gardner Fox*-written tale.

"The Purloined Parchment Puzzle"...hmmm... Once again the art was nothing spectacular, but the plot was far superior to the first story. Though the *whodunit* was the old "butler-did-it" bit, it was very nicely handled.

Isn't that rather ridiculous? In the first story, you had every opportunity to pull off the fakeout of the year, but instead gave us a slow, implausible tale with dialogue that stunk. Then the second story, which really had no chance at all, being the type of thing which reads well only in a text-story format; by pure technique, this bound-to-be-bad story pulled out as the black horse of the month into a very nice story with a few panels of art that had great possibilities. The author of this tale is very obviously *Gardner Fox*, as he has a way of utilizing old themes and turning them into solid stories. Hmmm...

—Steven Carlberg, Nicoma Park, Okla.

(That is ridiculous, to go you one better—both stories in this issue, with their ups and down, were written by *Gardner Fox*! And this once, to save you and fellow-*Batmaniacs* the trouble of figuring out who authored this 200th issue's book-lengther, it was one of your very own, Mike (the pro) *Friedrich*!—Editor)

• • • • •

Address communications to LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE, National Periodical Publications, 575 Lexington Ave., New York, N.Y., 10022.



THIS IS THE FIRST PAGE OF THE
VERY FIRST **BATMAN** STORY--
PUBLISHED IN **DETECTIVE COMICS*27**,
MAY, 1939.

THE BAT-MAN

THE CASE OF THE
CHEMICAL SYNDICATE

Robt
Kane

THE "BAT-MAN", A MYSTERIOUS AND
ADVENTUROUS FIGURE, FIGHTING FOR
RIGHTS AND APPREHENDING THE
WRONG DOER, IN HIS LONE BATTLE
AGAINST THE EVIL FORCES OF
SOCIETY...
HIS IDENTITY REMAINS UNKNOWN.

THE HOME OF COMMISSIONER GORDON, WHO AT THE
MOMENT IS ENTERTAINING HIS YOUNG SOCIALITE FRIEND,
BRUCE WAYNE.

WELL COMMISSIONER,
ANYTHING EXCITING
HAPPENING THESE DAYS?

-NO-O- EXCEPT
THIS FELLOW THEY
CALL THE "BAT-MAN"
PUZZLES ME!

HELLO-WHAT'S
THAT? LAMBERT, THE
CHEMICAL KING-- STABBED
TO DEATH? HIS SON'S
FINGER PRINTS ON THE
KNIFE?--I'LL BE RIGHT
OVER!

-TALK ABOUT SOMETHING
EXCITING... OLD LAMBERT
HAS BEEN MURDERED AT
HIS MANSION... I'M GOING
THERE NOW. LIKE TO COME
ALONG?

OH WELL,
NOTHING ELSE
TO DO, MIGHT
AS WELL

THE COMMISSIONER AND
BRUCE WAYNE, SPEED TOWARD
THE LAMBERT RESIDENCE...

HELLO SERGEANT,
EVERYTHING UNDER
CONTROL?

YES SIR,
WE'VE GOT
YOUNG LAMBERT
IN THE BACK
ROOM!

...AND AFTER A THOROUGH EXAMINATION OF THE
SCENE OF THE CRIME THE ROOM BECOMES BUSY
WITH THE USUAL POLICE ROUTINE...

WELL I'M FINISHED
IN HERE, LET ME TALK
TO YOUNG LAMBERT

HELLO LAMBERT,
THEY SAY YOU KILLED
YOUR FATHER!

I DIDN'T DO
IT! COMMISSIONER,
BELIEVE ME, I
DIDN'T DO
IT!!

WITH RENEWED VITALITY, THE **CAPED CRUSADER** AND **TEEN TITAN** DEVOTE ALL OF THEIR ENERGIES AND TALENTS TOWARD ONE OBJECTIVE: THE CAPTURE OF THE **SCARECROW**! ONE NIGHT, NEAR A RARE BOOK STORE ...

THE JOKER'S NOT WHOM WE'RE LOOKING FOR, BUT WE'RE NOT ONES TO PASS UP AN OPPORTUNITY...

HOW'D YOU GUESS WHERE I WOULD STRIKE? I DIDN'T LEAVE A CLUE THIS TIME!

THE JOKE'S ON YOU, **JOKER**! WE WEREN'T EVEN LOOKING FOR YOU!

HEY, WHAT'S THIS IN HIS HAIR?

TWO RED STRAWS!
THE **SCARECROW'S** CALLING CARDS!

HA, HA! THE JOKE'S ON YOU--
FIGURE IT OUT FOR YOURSELVES!

WONDER WHERE THE STRAWS CAME FROM--
I NEVER SAW THEM BEFORE!

LIKE BOYS CATCHING BUTTERFLIES IN THE PARK, THE **CAPED CRIME-FIGHTERS** NET **KILLER MOTH** IN **MD-CRIME**...



NEXT THE **GOTHAM GANGBUSTERS** FIND THEMSELVES CHASING A CERTAIN **BIRDMAN BANDIT**...

WE HUNT FOR A CERTAIN BIRD...AND WIND UP WITH ANOTHER...

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO FLY THE COUP THIS TIME, PENGUIN!



PSHAW! MY UNEQUALED UMBRELLA WILL UNDOUBTEDLY LEAD TO YOUR UNDOING, DYNAMIC DUO!

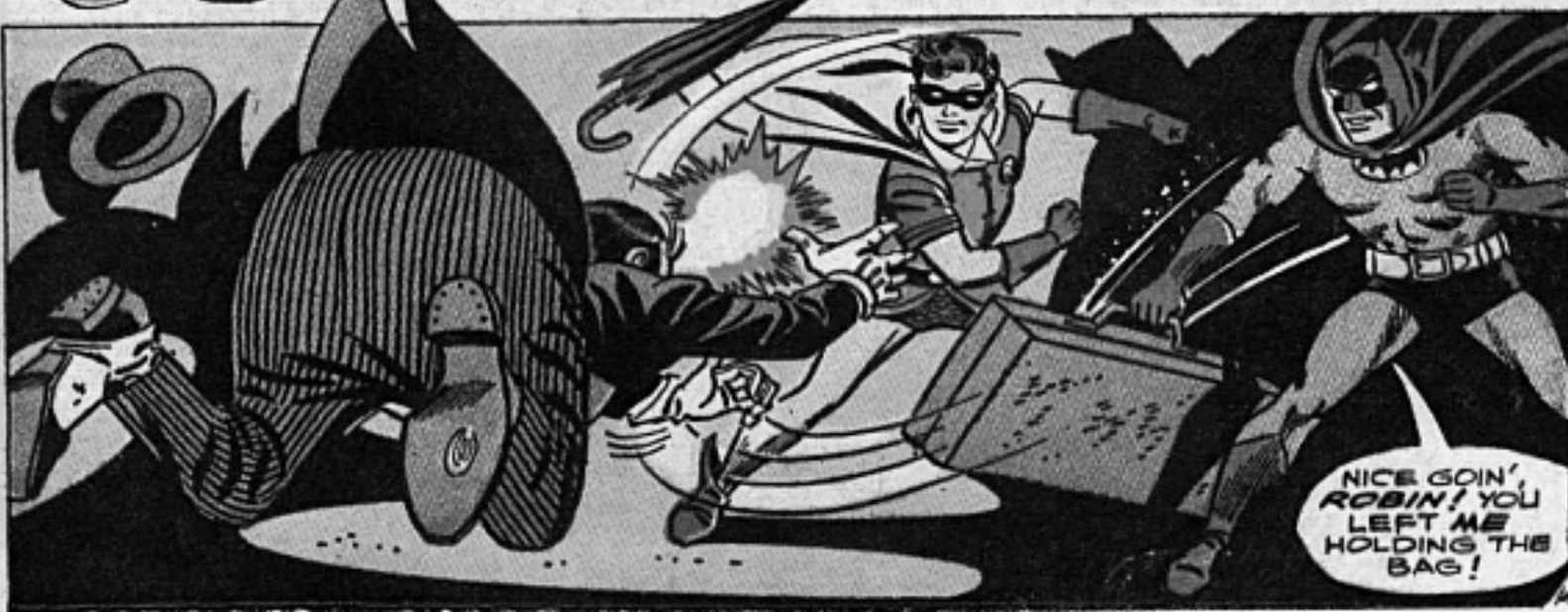
WATCH OUT, ROBIN! THERE'S ALWAYS DANGER WHEN PENGUIN POINTS ONE OF HIS UMBRELLAS!



BUT INSTEAD OF DANGER...

FIVE OF 'EM! THE SCARE-CROW AGAIN!

EGAD-- BLUE STRAWS?!



IN THE HAYSTACK HIDE-OUT OF THE SCARECROW...

"BATMAN GAGS JOKER"--
"KILLER MOTH NETTED"--
"BIRDMAN CAGED"--

I THOUGHT
YOU SAID
BATMAN WOULD BE
OUT OF ACTION AFTER
YOU TOOK CARE OF
HIM, SCARECROW!

YEAH! AND HOW
COME WE'VE BEEN
COOPED UP ALL
THIS TIME & WE'RE
NOT MAKING ANY
DOUGH SITTING
HERE!



PATIENCE, MR. RAYBOURNE,
PATIENCE! APPARENTLY THEY
HAVE TRIED TO RESTORE THEIR
CONFIDENCE UP BY CAPTURING
OTHER CRIMINALS!

PERSONALLY, I
HAVE NO CONCERN
ABOUT CONFRONTING
THEM AGAIN—AS
SOON AS THEY
INTERPRET THOSE
CLUES I
PLANTED!



I'M BIDDING MY
TIME UNTIL
BATMAN
THINKS HE CAN
FACE ME AGAIN!

BUT WE KNOW THAT
BATMAN DOESN'T
POSSIBLY FACE ME
WITHOUT COLLAPSING
FROM FRIGHT!



AND AT THE SAME TIME, IN THE BATCAVE...

THESE STRAWS ARE OBVIOUSLY
SOME CLUE FROM THE SCARECROW
TO WHERE HE'LL APPEAR NEXT!
BUT HOW DID THEY GET ON THE
JOKER, PENGUIN, AND
KILLER MOTH?

I WISH
I KNEW!

HMMM...TWO RED
STRAWS, FOUR
WHITE ONES, AND
FIVE BLUE...



CONTINUED ON 35TH PAGE FOLLOWING.

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THE BATMAN says:

Hello, readers. Now that you've read all these new adventures of mine and Robin's, I'd like to talk right AT you for a minute or so.

I think Robin and I made it pretty clear that WE HATE CRIME AND CRIMINALS! There's nothing we like better than to crack down on the distasteful denizens of the underworld. Why? Because we're proud of being AMERICANS—and we know there's no place in this great country of ours for lawbreakers!

That phrase, "CRIME DOES NOT PAY," has been used over and over again to the point where I hesitate to repeat it. But remember this: IT'S JUST AS TRUE NOW AS IT EVER WAS—AND THAT'S PLENTY TRUE!

Sure, it may seem that lawbreakers DO get away with breaking the law. Some may get away with it longer than others. But in the end, every crook gets what's coming to him—and that means plenty of trouble with the law!

Robin and I hope that our adventures may help to "put over" that fact. We'd like to feel that our efforts may help every youngster to grow up into an honest, useful citizen.

It depends on YOU and YOU and YOU. You've got to govern your own lives so that they can be worthwhile, fruitful lives—not lives wasted in prison, or even thrown away altogether before the ready guns of the law-enforcement agents whose duty it is to guard those of us who are honest from those of us who are not. And not only must you guide your OWN life in the proper channels—you must also strive to be a good influence on the lives of others.

If you do all this, if you are definitely on the side of Law and Order, then Robin and I salute you and are glad to number you among our friends!

... And what the BATMAN says goes DOUBLE for me!



Adapted from a page that appeared in BATMAN No. 3, Fall, 1940 issue

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION (Act of October 23, 1962; Section 4369, Title 39, United States Code)

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8. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and other Security Holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of Bonds, Mortgages or Other Securities (if there are none, so state): None.
9. Paragraphs 7 and 8 include, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, also the statements in the two paragraphs show the affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner. Names and address of individuals who are stockholders of a corporation which itself is a stockholder or holder of bonds, mortgages or other securities of the publishing corporation have been included in paragraphs 7 and 8 when the interests of such individuals are equivalent to 1 percent or more of the total amount of the stock or securities of the publishing corporation.

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2. Mail subscriptions
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- D. Free Distribution (including samples) by mail, carrier or other means
- E. Total Distribution (Sum of C and D)
- F. Office Use, Left-Over, Unaccounted, Spoiled After Printings
- G. Total (Sum of E and F—should equal net press run shown in A)

Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	Single Issue Nearest to Filing Date
1,198,000	970,000
794,000	865,000
11,700	9,300
805,700	874,300
340	340
806,040	874,640
891,960	895,360
1,198,000	970,000

I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete. IRVIN DONENFELD, Business Manager.

5 A.M.--AN ELITE FUR COMPANY STORE HAS UNINVITED VISITORS...

WHY'D WE COME HERE, SCARECROW,
INSTEAD OF HITTING A BANK
OR SOMETHING?

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AS MONEY--BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY,
BATMAN IS ALSO HERE!

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FLAGG FURRIERS

"BUNDLE UP
FOR THE WINTER--
BUY A MINK--
ONLY \$999"

"BUY A FUR COAT
FOR YOUR LOVE
VALENTINE'S
DAY"

BREAKING INSIDE...

B-B-BATMAN--
HERE?!

HE'S A FOOL--
HARDY ENOUGH
HERO TO BE HERE,
ALL RIGHT!

HE MIGHT BE
OVER--THERE!

OR OVER
HERE--!

SUDDENLY LIGHT FLOODS THE STORE...

OR UP
HERE,
SCARECROW!





WHAT'S THIS? HOW ARE THEY HOLDING UP? THEY SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO EVEN STAND UP!

HOW CAN YOU STAND TO EVEN COME NEAR ME, BATMAN? YOUR FEAR OF ME SHOULD STOP...

NOTHING'S STOPPING ME NOW! I'VE BEEN BRAIN-WASHED!



RAP!

HE IS SCARED! I CAN PRACTICALLY HEAR HIS HEART BEATING LIKE A DRUM! HE'S JUST TRYING TO HIDE THE FACT-- BUT HE DOESN'T FOOL ME!



ROBIN IS ALSO BUSY AT "WORK"...

THIS IS "FUR" YOU! OUR GUNS'LL STOP YOUR GAGS!



ZOK!



MERRILY I ROLL ALONG...

TURNABOUT IS "FUR" PLAY!

I'M NOT GIVING MYSELF TIME TO BE AFRAID!



MEANWHILE, THE HARD-PRESSED SCARECROW RACES DOWN A STAIRWAY...



THEIR DETERMINATION IS FANTASTIC! I'LL HAVE TO RESORT TO MY ALTERNATE PLAN!

ONLY THIS TIME I'LL HAVE TO KILL THEM INSTEAD OF LETTING THEM GO! I CAN'T RISK HAVING THIS HAPPEN AGAIN!

WHY'S HE GRABBING THAT ROPE?

I GUESS HE'S ADMITTING HE'S AT HIS ROPE'S END!



A TUG OF THE ROPE AND...

IF ONE SCARECROW CAN'T DO THE TRICK-- A HALF DOZEN WILL!



T-TOO F-FRIGHTENED AGAIN--TO KEEP-- G-GOING--



P-PASSING--OUT--

UNDER THE SEEMINGLY ENDLESS ONSLAUGHT OF SIX SCARECROWS, BATMAN AND ROBIN CRUMBLE LIKE PAPER DOLLS...



WHEN THE CRUSADERS COME TO--THEY FACE AN AUTOMATIC FIRING SQUAD IN THE HAYSTACK
HIDE-OUT...



CAREFUL, BATMAN! DON'T TREMBLE
TOO HARD! I ONLY TIED YOUR WRISTS
WITH STRINGS--AND THOSE GUNS ARE
SET ON A HAIR TRIGGER THAT WILL
GO OFF IF THOSE STRINGS ARE
EVEN SLIGHTLY MOVED!

HEY, BATMAN!
YA HUNGRY?
I GOT A
DELICIOUS
HERO SAND-
WICH HERE!
HA-HA!

HOW 'BOUT AN
ICE-COLD
COKE, ROBIN?



ROBERTS, BETCHA
A GRAND THAT
BATMAN PANICS
FIRST--MOVES THE
STRING AND GETS
SHOT!

NAWWH, BILTO, HE'S
TOO SCARED TO
MOVE! HE'LL DIE OF
STARVATION! I'LL
TAKE THAT BET!

THAT GUN--LIKE THE
GUN THAT KILLED MY
PARENTS! ALFRED IS
RIGHT! I VOWED TO
CAPTURE LAWBREAKERS
FOR THE REST OF MY
LIFE! MUST GET OUT OF
THIS! LOOKS EASY
ENOUGH...



THESE STRINGS--LIKE
THE TRAPEZE WIRES
THAT MY PARENTS WERE
KILLED ON! ALFRED'S
RIGHT! I'VE GOT TO
OVERCOME THIS FEAR--
CAPTURE CRIMINALS!



HMM...
SHOULDN'T
BE HARD TO
GET OUT OF
THIS TRAP...



Now!

CAREFUL NOT TO MOVE THEIR WRISTS, THE EVER-RESOURCEFUL TEAMMATES BEND FORWARD AS FAR AS THEY CAN...

THEN, FLEXING POWERFUL LEG MUSCLES, THEY FLIP THEMSELVES OVER, SIMULTANEOUSLY SNAPPING THEIR WRIST-STRINGS...



CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

WHO'D THINK I'D EVER
HAVE TO RESORT TO A
GUN TO SCARE
BATMAN?

I'M TAKING
YOU IN!

AAAGHH! GET AWAY FROM
ME, BATMAN!

I CAN'T S-SHOOT!
I'M AFRAID!

I'VE
FINALLY
CAUGHT UP
WITH YOU,
SCARECROW!

MY PLAN B-BACKFIRED!
WHEN BATMAN SAID THE
SAME WORDS LARRY USED
ON ME IN THE INITIAL
EXPERIMENT, IT S-SET
ME OFF AGAIN!

AAAAAGH! NOT EVEN
MY ANTIDOTE CAN HELP
ME NOW!

SOMETIME LATER, IN THE BATCAVE TROPHY ROOM...

WHAT SHALL I WRITE ON THE CRIME-FILE CARD FOR THESE STRAWS, **MASTER WAYNE**? I FAIL TO SEE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THEM!

THEY WERE THE CLUES THAT TIPPED US OFF TO THE **SCARECROW'S** FUR STORE ROBBERY!

THE **RED, WHITE, AND BLUE** COLORS SUGGESTED THE COLORS OF THE **FLAG** AND THE **NUMBERS** GAVE US THE ADDRESS--**245 FLAGG STREET!**

THEY WERE A DOUBLE CLUE! THE NUMBERS **2** AND **4** ALSO GAVE US THE **DATE, FEB. 4th**-- WHILE THE **5** MEANT THE **TIME, 5 O'CLOCK!**

AND ONCE WE KNEW THE TIME AND PLACE--THE STAGE WAS SET TO UP--STAGE THE VILLAIN OF THE DRAMA--THE **SCARECROW!**

THE END

The SCARLET SPEEDSTER

"PUTS ON" **a New Personality and a HEAD TO MATCH!**

"The **SWELL-HEADED SUPER-HERO!**"

ON SALE JAN. 18th

MAR. NO. 177

THE FLASH

12

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THESE PEOPLE? YOU'D THINK THEY NEVER SAW **THE FLASH** BEFORE!

DIALOGUE BETWEEN TWO BATMANIACS UPON BATMAN REACHING ISSUE 200

EDITOR'S NOTE:

When the time came around to start thinking about doing something really special for this 200th anniversary mag, we hit upon the idea of revisiting the great stories of past issues! And what better person would know what these classics were than the number one all-time Batman fan, Biljo White? So we dispatched fellow Batmaniac Mike Friedrich to interview Biljo in his Columbia, Missouri "Batcave." The following excerpts are from their brief discussion:

Mike: I guess the best way to start is to ask what is the favorite *Batman* story of yours?

Biljo: I've always considered *Batman* #1-Spring 1940-to be the greatest comic magazine published. It featured the first two *Joker* stories, a *Hugo Strange* "monster" thriller...and it introduced the *Catwoman*!

This untitled *CW* story in #1 has always been one of my favorites. Known then only as "The Cat", the beautiful thief wore no feline mask, but was disguised as an old spinster who boarded a luxurious yacht intending to steal a precious emerald necklace from the hostess of a masquerade ball. Dick (*Robin*) Grayson was "planted" to spy as a ship's steward.

The "unforgettable scene" that marked the better stories occurred when the *Boy Wonder* was challenged by four disarmed gunmen. *Batman* stood aside as *Robin* smartly punched his way to victory. Three remaining crooks, still tied, refused to do battle with *Robin*, with one muttering: "If I only had my gun..."

Batman, in the following panel, turned to face the reader and said: "Well, kids, there's your proof! Crooks are yellow without their guns! Don't go around admiring them...rather do your best in fighting them...and all their kind!"

And now in the first *Joker* story—

MF: Wait a sec, man! I know it was an excellent issue, but what about the other issues, like my favorite, *Batman* #5 (1941)? It had the most powerful character story I've ever read! It was named "The Case of the Honest Crook" and revolved around *Batman* going to the aid of a young man, Joe Sands, who had been framed by a mob while in his teens. After Sands had come out of prison, he was unable to hold a job because his employers wouldn't trust him with a criminal record. In final desperation, to pay his wife's medicine bills, he had turned to crime, whereupon he was captured by the *Caped Crusader*. *BM's* heart went out to him and he set out to put the record straight. During the course of the story, the mob beat *Robin* nearly to death and left him lying alone in a dark tenement house. When *Batman* found him he took him for dead and went on a wild rampage. You should have seen the scene he left behind him! Smashed doors, broken furniture...

BW: Uh, Mike?

MF: ...cracked jaws...yeah?

BW: I thought I was the one bein' interviewed!

MF: Oh...uh, sorry! Well, uh, what other memorable stories do you remember?

BW: I think most all of the early *Batman* issues are memorable! They featured such great adventures as:

"Public Enemy No. 1" (*BM* 4)—a classic crime story which traced the tragic rise-and-fall of slum-raised Jimmy McCoy; "Four Birds of a Feather" a 1942 *Penguin* story (#11). A very human *Batman* was shot; he and *Robin* survived a tropical hurricane strapped to a palm tree; and a villainess operated to save his life. And of course I can't leave out "Here Comes Alfred" in #16 (1943), the story that changed the *Dynamic Duo's* life!

MF: But these were all in the very early days. They were some of the *Caped Crusader's* best days but surely there were great stories from later years?

BW: Well, I could devote this whole thing to the early 1940's. The later 40's and 50's weren't so great—

MF: WHAT?! Now there I've got to disagree! You mean to tell me that those beautifully touching Christmas stories that appeared almost every year from 1942 to 1948 weren't great? Or that something like "Knights of Knavery" (#25, 1944), which brought the *Penguin* and the *Joker* together for the first time isn't a classic? Or how 'bout "It Happened In Rome" (#24), which touched off the long-running time-travel series with Prof. Carter Nichols? Or the introduction of Vicki Vale and "The Scoop of the Century" in #49 (1948), that began many years of *Batman* being plagued by the snoopy redhead, who was obviously clued in by Lois Lane as to the advantages of bugging a costumed crimefighter? Or the—

BW: Okay—okay—you win...

MF: ...Thanks—I was getting outa breath!

BW: I'll admit that such stories as "The 1000 Secrets of the Batcave", #48 (1948) and "The Origin of Batplane II", #61 (1950) helped explain more of the lives of the *Dynamic Duo* and must rate as favorites.

MF: That's better! And don't forget the famous villain stories of the early 1950's—such as the "Catwoman reform period" (issues 62, 65, & 69) when the *Feline Feloness* abandoned crime for awhile and became a helper of *Batman* for a couple of stories before her pride overcame her and she returned to the underworld—or the classic *Killer Moth* stories in #63 & 64, which created the first real counterpart to *Batman*, with a pistol as the crook's "Robin"!

BW: Or that little obscure man named Joey Chill, who murdered Thomas and Martha Wayne and made a *Batman* out of Bruce Wayne!

MF: Now what about the more recent stuff? I'll never forget the dramatic "Robin Dies at Dawn" in *Batman* 156 (1963) nor the way the "new look" was introduced in #164 (1964) with the grabber of a cover depicting *BM* being shot down in mid-swing of the *Bat-rope*. "Zero Hour For Earth"—the beautiful spy novel in #167—and "The Remarkable Ruse of the Riddler" (#171)—from which the first *Batman-TV* show was adapted—quickly followed.

BW: Well, I tell today's readers that the *Batman* comics they read now will be the collectors' items of tomorrow, such as "Death Knocks Three Times" (#180, 1966), one of the best of the modern stories. This adventure combined much of old-time *Batman* greatness with the refined "new look"!

MF: Do you have anything to say to wrap this up?

BW: Yes, most definitely! The fun of reading the adventures of *Batman* is not confined to one generation. My favorites of yesteryear remain the same. Time has not dimmed my fondness for them, but I continue to read all the *Batman* stories of today for I know that tomorrow I will have new favorites to add to the old!